

2 | MAGOEBASKLOOF BRAMASOLE GUEST HOUSE

RATES B&B from R450 a person sharing and self-catering from R545 a person sharing. **CONTACT** 015-007-0631, www.bramasole.co.za

The scene at Bramasole Guest House is like something from a Bronte novel, set against the moody Magoebaskloof hills with a still, mist-covered lake disturbed only by leaping trout. Three-and-a-half hours north of Johannesburg and perched on the eastern escarpment, the spacious two-storey barn-like structure has eight rooms, each themed round an exotic global destination. The Moroccan Room, for example, is draped in warm-hued fabrics and colourful glass lanterns hang from the ceiling. The owners have gone for subtle decor, especially in the Paris and Africa rooms where Eiffel Tower references and wooden animal souvenirs are kept to a minimum, rendering the style tasteful rather than kitsch.

If the forest views don't tempt you to explore their depths, the fireplace inside the lake house (a short stroll from the dining room) is sure to do the trick and the outdoor deck is great for sundowners. Bramasole offers a choice of self-catering units or bed and an eggs-and-sausage breakfast. Head to the nearby Pot and Plow (082-691-5790) for thin-based pizza, cold beer and to mingle with the locals. – Melanie van Zyl

LAKE-SIDE LAZING

2 | BRAMASOLE GUEST HOUSE



3 | PRINCE ALBERT NIEUWEHUYZ

RATES Self-catering from R850 a person a night sharing (25 percent discount for a stay of three nights or more). **CONTACT** 083-442-5416, www.princealbert.org.za

Using sustainable, green architecture principles, Dr Brian Rademeyer had one thing in mind when he built this five-star, wheelchair-friendly, Karoo cottage in 2012:

it had to be eco-friendly. From the solar-heater water system and the paddle ceiling fans to the cavity walls and blinds that regulate temperature, the effort put into making the space environmentally sound is overwhelming. But the attention to detail doesn't end there – it took me an hour to admire the intricate decor, family heirlooms, Anglo-Boer War memorabilia, works by local artist Joshua Miles and a vast book collection before my bags were eventually unpacked.

Two streets back from Prince Albert's main road, the cottage has one main bedroom and the annex has two double beds; both are en-suite and air-conditioned. The lounge, dining room and kitchen are open plan and lead on to a synthetic-grassed courtyard. Relax on the leather couch in front of the fireplace or on the handcrafted oak chairs outside where seven *Manneken Pis*-inspired fountains create a tranquil ambiance. The kitchen is equipped with Le Creuset crockery and a Smeg appliances, but slow-cooked meals are best done on the old-school Aga stove or the Weber.

But while the finishings are remarkable, it's the fresh coffee beans, unpasteurised milk, juice and yogurt from the local dairy waiting in the fridge that really makes Nieuwehuyz feel like a home from home. – Dylan Kotze

ECO BY DESIGN

3 | NIEUWEHUYZ

